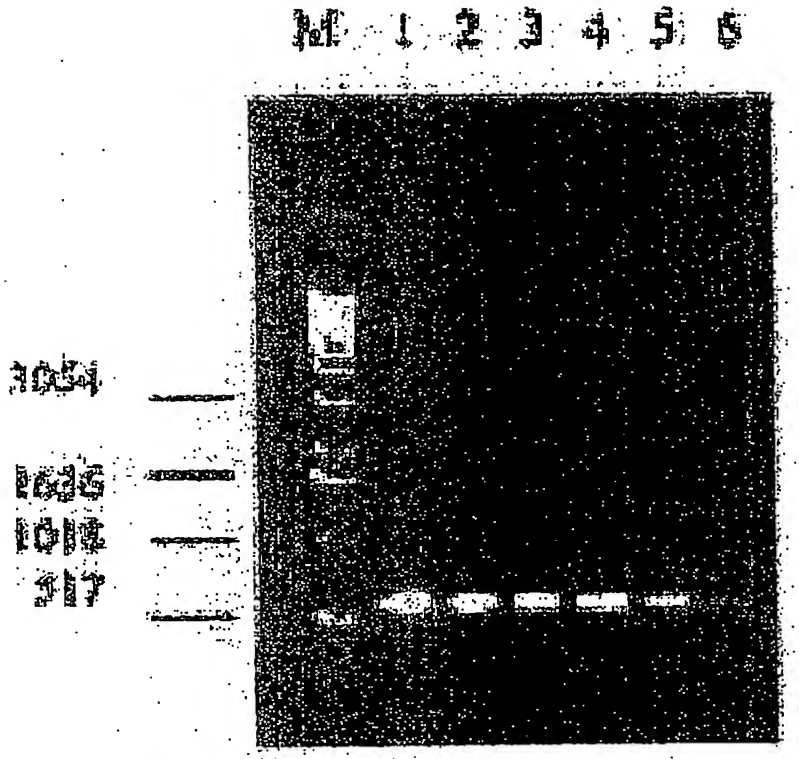

FIG. 1. Sensitivity of the PCR assay. Shown are the results of PCR amplification of the serially diluted *L. donovani* (DD8) DNA analyzed on agarose gels. DNA was extracted from parasite cultures and amplified as described in Materials and Methods. Lane M, 1 kb Ladder (Gibco BRL); lane 1, 10 pg of DNA; lane 2, 1 pg of DNA; lane 3, 10 fg of DNA; lane 4, 1 fg of DNA; lane 5, 10 fg of DNA; lane 6, 1 fg of DNA.

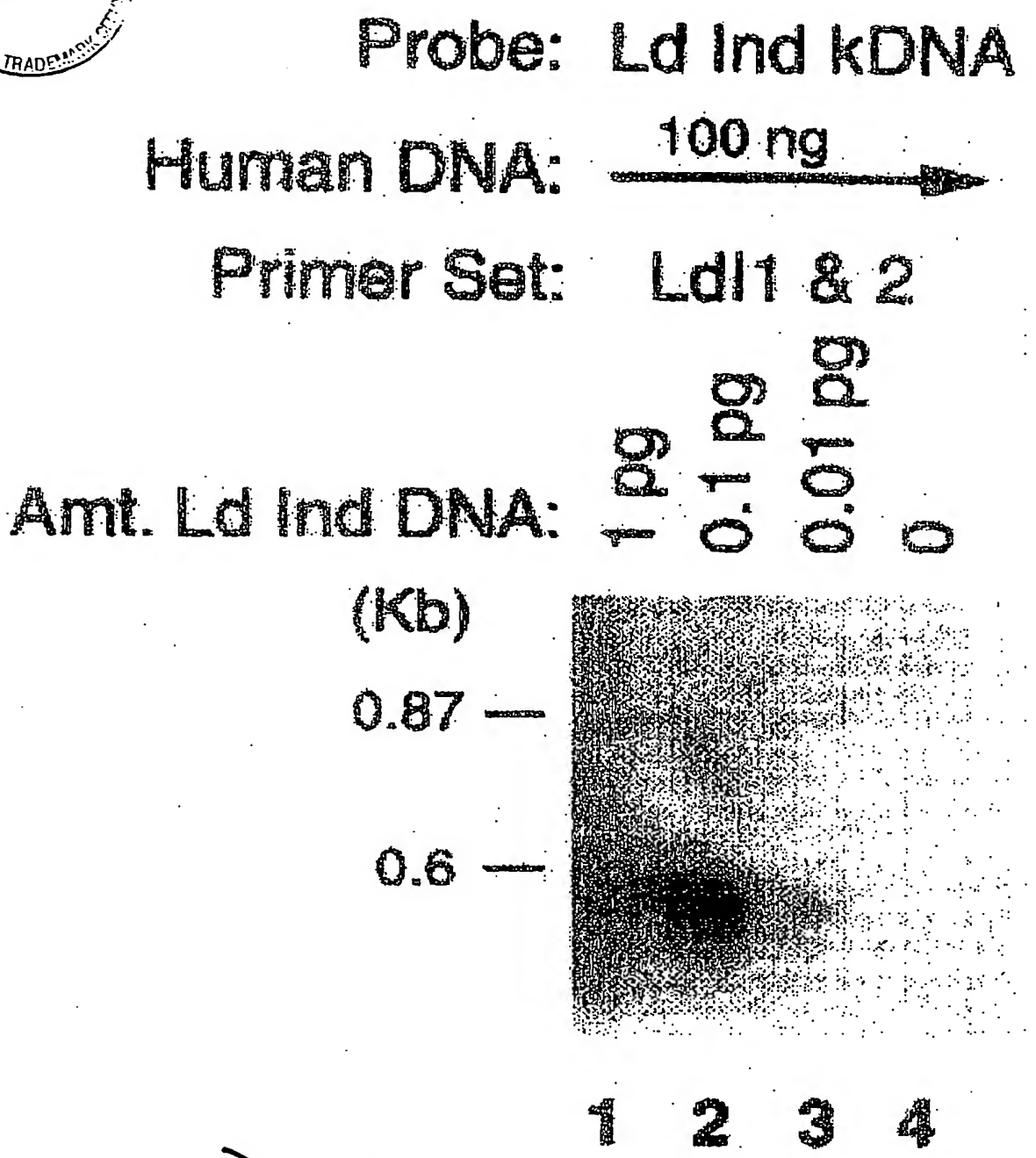

FIG. 2. Sensitivity of PCR amplification of *Leishmania* kDNA followed by Southern blot analysis. The PCR contained 100 ng of human genomic DNA and the indicated amount of total DNA from *L. donovani* DD8. The PCR product was probed with parasite kDNA and exposed for about 1 h. Lane 4 represents a PCR containing only human DNA as a control.

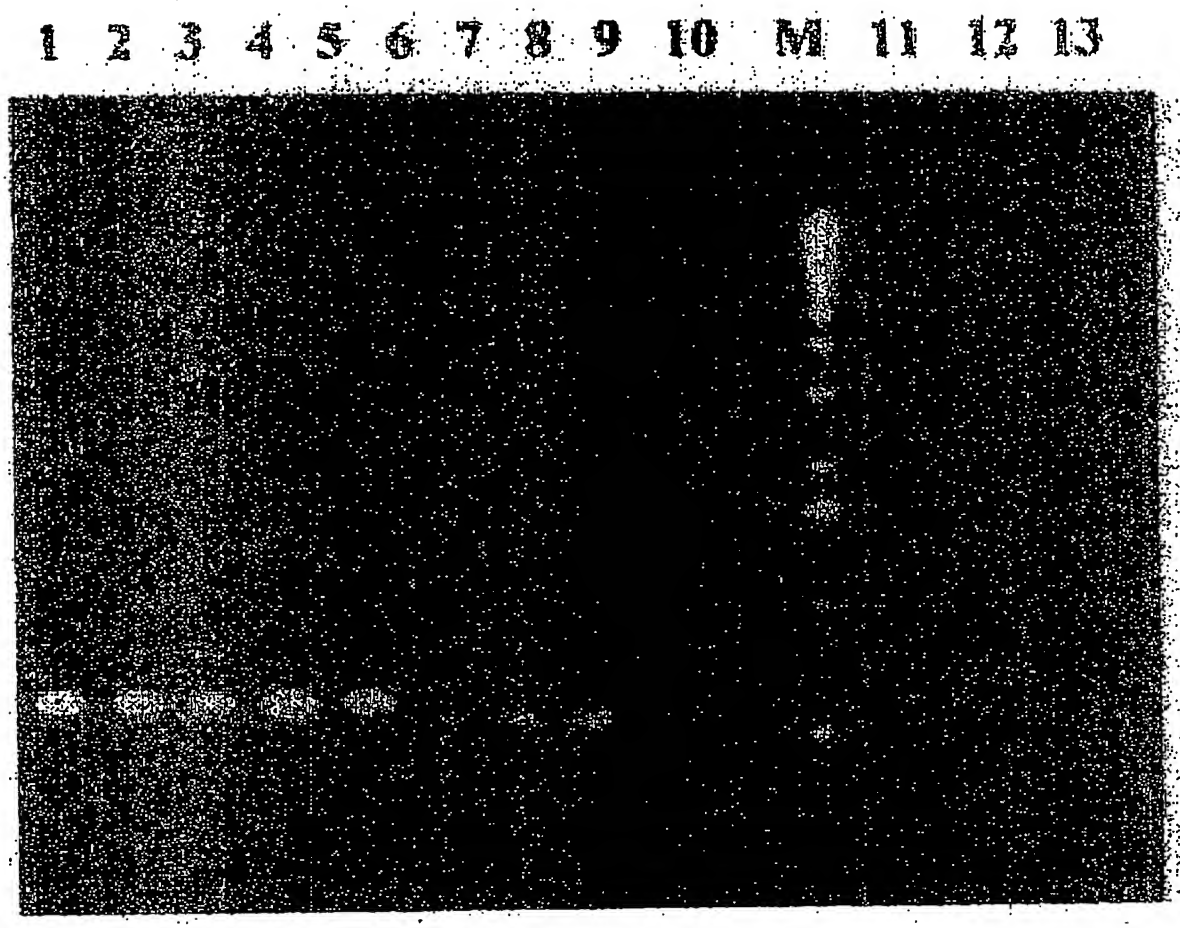

FIG. 3. Amplification of parasite DNA from various strains and olates of *Leishmania*. DNA (1 ng) isolated from parasite cultures was bjected to PCR and analyzed. Lane 1, *L. donovani* AG83; lane 2, *donovani* DD8; lane 3, *L. donovani* HCB8; lane 4, *L. donovani* CB6; lane 5, *L. donovani* HCB 7 (RKDL origin); lane 6, *L. donovani* ; lane 7, *L. donovani* WR684; lane 8 *L. donovani infantum*; lane 9, *mopica* WR683; lane 10, *L. major* LV 39, lane M, 1-kb ladder, lane *Plasmodium*; lane 12, *M. leprae*; lane 13, *M. tuberculosis*.

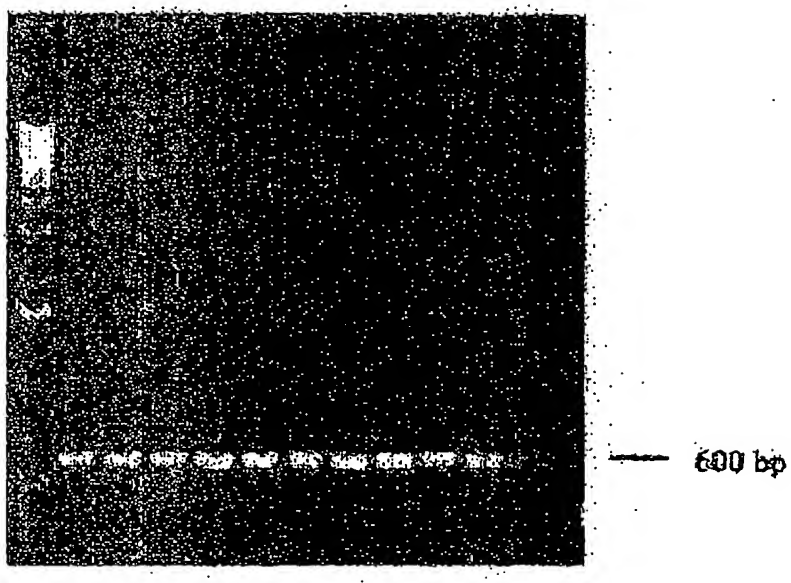

FIG. 4. DNA amplification from recent field isolates of KA and KDL. DNA (1 ng) extracted from cultures of parasite isolates was sed for PCR amplification. Lanes: M, 1-kb ladder; 1, KA-1; 2, KA-2; KA-3; 4, KA-4; 5, KA-5; 6, PK-1; 7, PK-2; 8, PK-3; 9, PK-4; 10, PK-5; 1, isolate from a patient with cutaneous leishmaniasis.

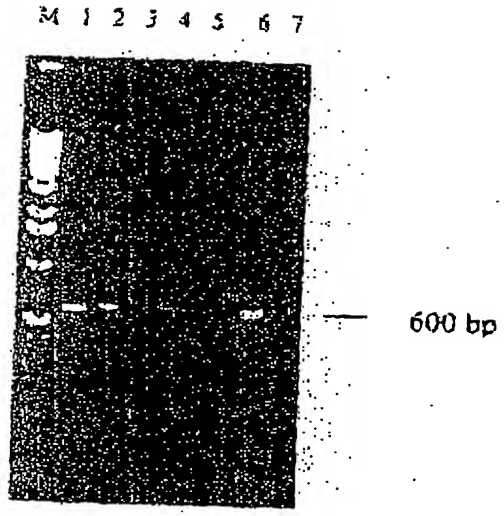

FIG. 5. PCR assay with clinical samples of KA and PKDL. DNA (100 ng) isolated from clinical samples was used for PCR amplification. Lane M, 1-kb ladder; lane 1, KA (bone marrow); lane 2, KA (blood); lane 3, malaria (blood); lane 4, tuberculosis (blood); lane 5, control from the area of endemicity (blood); lane 6, PKDL (skin lesion); lane 7, leprosy (lesion).

FIG. 6. Sequence of PCR products with DNA isolated from *L. donovani* BD8 strain, isolates and clinical samples of KA and PKDL.

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   1 gaattcgccg agaaaatgacc gaaaatgggc caaaaaccca aacttttctg gtccrccggg
  61 tagggggcgtt ctgcgaaaac cgaaaaatgg gtgcagaaat cccgttcaaa aaatagccca
 121 aaatgccaaa aatcggctcc gaggcgggaa actgggggtt ggtgtaaaat agggtcgggt
 181 ggaggggaaa ttcggggcctc ggacgtgtgt ggatatggcc tgggtgggga ctttggagtg
 241 ggttgtacct gtatgggggtt ttggacctgg cttggggttt ggggggtggt gtgggaaagg
 301 ggttggcgct atttggagtg acgttggctc ttttgataat tgatatttgt tttaaaatgg
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 781 gaagagacac cg
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